

Gentle Fellow or Marshmallow?

A Study of Gentleness

^{NLT} **Galatians 6:1** Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

^{NAS} **2 Timothy 2:24** And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,²⁵ with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

^{NLT} **1 Peter 3:14** But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats.¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare. *NLT*

For Reflection and Discussion

1. What is your gut reaction to those trapped or caught in sin? Why do you think you react that way? Is your reaction harsh, gentle or ambivalent?
2. Read John 4:7-32 . How did Jesus demonstrate gentleness toward the Woman at the Well?
3. How could we (as individuals, as the church) show humility and gentleness for those trapped or caught in sin?
4. In what parts of your world do you encounter the greatest opposition?
5. Would those around you describe you as harsh when they oppose you? Why would they say that? Are they correct?
6. Would someone who doesn't know you, but heard you talk, describe you as harsh or gentle?
7. Have you ever reacted harshly when you felt attacked or accused? Why do you think you responded that way?
8. List your five closest relationships. Would these 5 people describe you as harsh or gentle? Why would they give that answer?
9. Ask the 5 people above if you are harsh or gentle in your dealings with them.
10. Prayer this week: "Lord, show me the harsh edges of my life. Point them out to me and begin rounding them off. Help me be gentle at home, at work and at play."

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer
deflects anger, but harsh words make
tempers flare. *NLT*